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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts

Letter dated 16 August 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to draw your attention to the unparalleled increase in ceasefire violations by Azerbaijan along the line of contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan. This stands as yet another evidence that Azerbaijan violates commitments reached during the trilateral meetings of the Armenian, Russian and Azerbaijani Presidents on "additional efforts aimed at the reinforcement of the ceasefire and enhancement of confidence-building in the military sphere" and "to strive to solve all contentious issues through peaceful means".

Through circulating letters containing false information at the United Nations on a regular basis, Azerbaijan strives to falsify the root causes of the conflict, including by shifting its own responsibility for countless atrocities, systematic pogroms and barbaric killings of defenceless and innocent Armenian children, women and elderly in Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as in different parts of Azerbaijan. With this aim, Azerbaijan has recruited, financed, trained and used mercenaries closely linked to terrorist organizations.

The letter of the Azerbaijani representative to the United Nations circulated as document A/65/921-S/2011/492, dated 3 August 2011, represents a new example of anti-Armenian hate propaganda conducted by the leadership of Azerbaijan.

The letter reveals that the representative of Azerbaijan has apparently taken it upon himself to blatantly interpret, or rather misinterpret, the remarks made by the

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President of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan, singling out of context certain parts of the statement, and thus completely misrepresenting its essence.

On many occasions the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) called on the parties to consolidate the ceasefire, withdraw snipers from the line of contact and carry out other confidence-building measures. Azerbaijan rejected all of them. By regular violations of the ceasefire, provocations on the line of contact, threats of use of force and circulation of the above-mentioned letters at international organizations, Azerbaijan, in fact, continually destroys the confidence instead of engaging in confidence-building.

Furthermore, Azerbaijan rejected the proposal of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resolution at the meetings of the Presidents of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan in June 2010 in St. Petersburg, in October 2010 in Astrakhan, in March 2011 in Sochi and in June 2011 in Kazan. This is the reason why the negotiation process has not produced results.

Despite Azerbaijan's non-constructive stance, Armenia remains committed to the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, strongly believing that the solution of the problem must be achieved only by peaceful means based on the principles of international law.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 39, 66 and 75, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Karine **Khoudaverdian**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 17 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write again to draw your attention to the escalating fire of rockets and mortars at Israel from the Gaza Strip.

Since I last wrote to you, on 9 August 2011 (see S/2011/504), a rocket and some six mortars have been fired into southern Israel. On 15 August 2011, a rocket launched from Gaza exploded in the immediate vicinity of Be'er-Sheva — the largest city in southern Israel and the home of nearly 200,000 people. It is only by chance that these most recent attacks did not cause civilian casualties. With rockets continuing to rain down on our major cities, Israel cannot and will not rely on good luck to defend its citizens. Israel has exercised and will continue to exercise its right to self-defence, as appropriate, and will take all necessary measures to protect its citizens.

Israel holds the Hamas terrorist organization fully responsible for all attacks emanating from Gaza, where it remains in de facto control. So far, Palestinian unity is a virtual reality. In the real world, Palestinian rockets continue to be aimed at kindergartens, homes and hospitals in Israel.

The attacks of the past week continue a troubling escalation of these acts of terrorism, which deliberately target Israeli civilians and alter the fabric of their daily life. In the past month alone, some 29 rockets and mortars have been fired into Israeli communities. From schoolyards to backyards, all areas of southern Israel are under constant threat of attack. Indeed, an entire generation of children is being raised under the spectre of ever present rocket fire from Gaza, from which Israel withdrew completely in 2005.

While the world talks about an alleged humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Hamas smuggles Mercedes-Benz sedans and designer clothes into the area. However, it is not only luxury goods that are smuggled into Gaza, but also first-class missiles. The illegal smuggling of arms fuels the violence that continues to flow from Gaza. Preventing this illegal activity is an integral aim of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) but it receives hardly any attention from the international community.

The rocket fire emanating from Gaza represents a flagrant violation of international law and must be addressed with the utmost seriousness. Israel expects the Security Council, the Secretary-General and the international community to condemn all of these attacks immediately and unequivocally. The People of Israel,

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like any other people, deserve to hear these acts of terror condemned with a loud and clear voice. Silence is not an option.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative